

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
- a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
- a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means; and
- a sensing device interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a gas chromatograph.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 2 wherein said gas chromatograph is comprised of a photo diode in optical proximity to fluids being drawn from the wound site towards said vacuum source.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 wherein said sensing device is comprised of a sensor array.

Claim [[4]] 5 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim 1 further comprising a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said sensing device.

Claim [[5]] 6 (currently amended): A vacuum assisted wound closure device, comprising:

- a screen means for placement within a wound bed;
- a sealing means adhered over said screen means and wound bed;
- a vacuum source fluidically communicating with said screen means;
- a collection canister interposed between said screen means and said vacuum source; and
- a sensing device for detecting infection.

Claim [[6]] 7 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim [[5]] 6 wherein said sensing device is embedded within said screen means.

Claim [[7]] 8 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim [[5]] 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed on said sealing means, such that said sensing device is in contact with said screen means.

Claim [[8]] 9 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim [[5]] 6 wherein said sensing device is disposed within said canister

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Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10 (currently amended): The vacuum assisted wound closure device of claim ~~[[5]]~~ 6

further comprising a flexible conduit for communicating between said screen means and said

vacuum source.